



SRC Wins & Losses: First Committee Cut-off 2005

SRC WINS:

Making our streets safer:

- SB 5038 increases penalties for failing to yield to emergency or police vehicles. (Sen. Jim Honeyford, R-Sunnyside)
- SB 5457 increases penalties for failing to secure a load on public highways. (Sen. Luke Esser, R-Bellevue)

Making health care more affordable:

- SB 5202 Requires the state to provide a health savings account option for employees (Sen. Linda Evans Parlette)

FAILED TO PASS COMMITTEE CUT-OFF:

- **Election reform (Sen. Pam Roach):** SB 5078 would have cleansed the voter rolls by requiring legitimate voters to re-register and verify eligibility. Died in Senate Government Operations & Elections.
- **Protecting students from sexual predators at school (Sen. Don Benton):** SB 5677, requiring the permanent revocation of certification of teachers who view sexually explicit material on school grounds, died in the Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee.
- **Addressing the "diploma mill" issue (Sen. Mark Schoesler):** SB 5634 would have required credits and degrees earned for teacher a salary increases to be verified by OSPI to ensure they are from accredited institutions. Died in the Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee

Workers' compensation reforms to help prevent continued double-digit premium increases and improve fairness in workers' compensation for employers or employees (all died in Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee):

- SB 5466 (Sen. Linda Evans Parlette) would have reformed the calculation of injured workers benefits to allow the number of hours worked per day, week, or month to be averaged to obtain the number of hours the worker "normally worked."
- SB 5674 (Sen. Linda Evans Parlette) would have simplified and added certainty to the calculation of workers' compensation benefits.
- SB 5793 (Sen. Jim Honeyford) would have allowed employers and employees in a workers' compensation claim to enter into a final settlement agreement at any time rather than running through a long line of appeals and litigation.
- SB 5825 (Sen. Linda Evans Parlette) would have eliminated the ability of injured workers to apply for an increase in their rate of time-loss compensation or pension benefits for a "change of circumstances."
- SB 5826 (Sen. Mike Hewitt) would have changed the calculation of injured workers' benefits from being based on the state average monthly wage to being based on the Implicit Price Deflator

SRC AGENDA 2005:

The Senate Republicans' top priority is continuing to get Washington back to work.

We will continue to work with members of both parties — and both chambers — to build a philosophical majority and address the most important issues facing our state:

- ⇒ Passing a sustainable budget that protects the most vulnerable without imposing new taxes on struggling families;
- ⇒ Encouraging job creation in our recovering economy and preventing legislation that hurts businesses and workers;
- ⇒ Improving access to affordable health insurance products so more small businesses can offer coverage for their employees; and
- ⇒ Approving changes to Washington's elections system to ensure a legitimate voter for every vote and to protect the rights of our military voters

Increasing minimum wage job opportunities (All died in Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee):

- SB 5747 (Sen. Mike Hewitt) would have connected Washington's automatic minimum wage increases to the state's unemployment rate.
- SB 5774 (Sens. Eric Poulsen and Linda Evans Parlette) would have allowed employers in specified hospitality-related industries to elect to pay their tipped employees an adjusted minimum tipped wage rate

Expanding access to affordable health insurance for working families (All died in Senate Health & Long-term Care Committee):

- SB 5982 (Sen. Linda Evans Parlette) would have made employee health care insurance more affordable for small business owners by freeing them from the 47 different health care mandates required in Washington.
- SB 6049 (Sen. Linda Evans Parlette) would have helped make health savings accounts more cost-effective for small businesses